

1 **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING READING**

2 This invention relates to methods for teaching pre-emergent and emergent readers, and, in
3 particular, an apparatus for accomplishing these tasks.

4 **Cross-Reference to Related Applications**

5 This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/675,073, filed
6 September 28, 2003; *NOW PATENT NO. 6,685,477.*

7 **Background of the Invention**

8 There are various known devices for teaching pre-emergent and emergent readers
9 alphabet and phoneme awareness, recognition of spelling patterns and initial consonant sounds,
10 word building, and sentence construction. However, as students progress in skill level, these
11 devices do not provide a consistent or progressively challenging approach throughout the process
12 of teaching reading and spelling, nor are they suitable for teaching such readers via several
13 different methods. Different people learn in different ways, e.g., seeing, doing, touching
14 (manipulating).

15 Known devices include kits of substantially two-dimensional pieces which offer different
16 colors and different sizes of parts that fit together and bear letters, word parts or words to
17 reinforce reading and spelling skills, but they do not offer the opportunity to simultaneously mix
18 and match different, but similar, information. That is, because the pieces are flat each such piece
19 provides only one visible piece of reading information. For example, alphabet pieces will have
20 only one letter of the alphabet visible. There are also kits of three-dimensional pieces shaped
21 like blocks and bearing letters, word parts or words to reinforce reading and spelling skills,
22 which may be placed next to each other, but which do not connect together. Without connection,
23 the blocks are easily disturbed by beginning readers who lack good small motor skills. Thus, the